

IURC News Release

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For Immediate Release
November 30, 2005

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Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission Approves Natural Gas Deposit Rule

Today, as a part of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission's continuing process to review and reevaluate its rules, the Commission approved a new natural gas deposit rule that reduces the maximum deposit amount that utilities may charge customers.

The new rule is designed to make deposits more affordable, while at the same time minimizing the cost of bad debt imposed on ratepayers. It reduces the deposit amount for as many as 95% of natural gas utility customers in Indiana from the current four months to two months of their estimated annual usage.

The rule sets a maximum deposit of 1/6th (two months) the estimated annual usage for:

- new customers who meet credit standards,
- customers who use budget billing at anytime of the year,
- low income customers who receive LiHEAP heating assistance during the heating season from November 1 to March 15th.

The maximum allowable deposit for high risk customers is 1/3rd (four months) the estimated annual usage.

The rule is not effective until approved by Attorney General Steve Carter and Governor Mitch Daniels.

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